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R 121635Z MAY 83
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8065
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMCONSUL BARCELONA POUCH
AMCONSUL BILBAO POUCH
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044,
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
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E.O. 12356: DECL: PADR
TAGS: PREL, SM, SP
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE "DESAPARECIDOS" - SPANISH GOVERNMENT
- CRITICAL OF GOA REPORT

REF: A) BUENOS AIRES 2945, B) MADRID 1608, C) BUENOS
AIRES 3153

1. (U) FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GOS STATEMENT ON THE
RECENT GOA "DESAPARECIDOS" REPORT (EMBASSY TRANSLATION):

BEGIN TEXT

ON APRIL 28, ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES PUBLISHED A DOCUMENT
IN WHICH THE PROBLEM OF THE "DESAPARECIDOS" IS ANALYZED.

IN THIS DOCUMENT, CONSIDERED BY ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES TO
BE THE LAST WORD ON THE SUBJECT, IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT
2050 PEOPLE DISAPPEARED AS THE RESULT OF ANTI-GUERRILLA
ACTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE ARMED FORCES. THE DOCUMENT

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ALSO POINTS OUT THAT ALL THOSE "DESAPARECIDOS", THE
MAJORITY OF WHICH ARE DESCRIBED AS TERRORISTS, SHOULD

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BE CONSIDERED TO BE DEAD.

RESERVING JUDGMENT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE FULL TEXT OF THE DECLARATION IS KNOWN, THE GOS WISHES TO DECLARE ITS PROFOUND PREOCCUPATION REGARDING AND REJECTION OF THE ASSERTION THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE "DESAPARECIDOS" WERE TERRORISTS, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE 35 OF SPANISH NATIONALITY AND THE 174 CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF SPANIARDS IN WHOSE FATE SPAIN HAS INVOLVED ITSELF. THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN DOES NOT HAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT WOULD ALLOW IT TO DEFINITELY ENDORSE THIS THESIS. MOREOVER, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS AS AN AFFRONT TO THE MOST BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS THE PROCEDURE EMPLOYED TO ERADICATE TERRORIST GROUPS FROM ARGENTINE SOCIETY.

THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO REITERATE ITS HOPE THAT THE BROTHER PEOPLE OF ARGENTINA WILL FIND A ROAD TOWARDS PEACE AND HARMONY BY MEANS OF NATIONS WHICH WILL TRANSFORM FACTS INTO NO MORE THAN A MEMORY OF A TRAGIC PAST THE FACTS AND EVENTS DESCRIBED IN THE DOCUMENT ISSUED BY THE ARGENTINE MILITARY JUNTA.

END TEXT.

2. (U) MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SOUTH AMERICA ALVARO NORIEGA TOLD EMBOFF MAY 6 THAT GOS HAD SINCE RECEIVED THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE GOA DOCUMENT. WE NOTE FROM REFTEL C AND PRESS REPORTS HERE THAT THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES HAS REGISTERED GOS CONCERNS AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES.

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3. [REDACTED] COMMENT. HUMAN RIGHTS IS AN IMPORTANT THEME FOR THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT HERE. NEVERTHELESS WE DO NOT DETECT THE SAME INTENSITY OF FEELING AS APPEARS TO PREVAIL IN ITALY. DURING THE VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS TO MADRID IN FEBRUARY, FOREIGN MINISTER MORAN (REFTEL B) ARGUED THAT SOME PERSONS WOULD HAVE TO BE PUNISHED BUT THAT THE "LEY DE OLVIDO" SHOULD ALSO PLAY A KEY ROLE. THE LATTER IDEA APPEARS IN THE APRIL 28 GOS STATEMENT. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR MAY 10, MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESS

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ACKNOWLEDGED SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SPAIN'S CIVIL WAR
EXPERIENCE AND THE ARGENTINE CASE BUT STRESSED THAT THE
RECENTNESS OF SEVERE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA
MAKES IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THE GOA'S ARGUMENT.
END COMMENT. TODMAN

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